

Community History Programs

SELF-EVALUATION



Communities* can be involved in “history” in a variety of ways. Listed below are some options communities can embrace so that history and heritage can be beneficial and relevant to their future. To better serve you, we would like to better understand your community’s involvement with history. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey below.

* “Communities” may not always be cities or towns; they might be purpose-based organizations, regional or statewide in scope, or perhaps even distinct urban districts. Communities are self-identifying, defined by their own unique histories.

Evaluate your community’s Current Status/Performance and Future Aspirations.

- Current Performance should be practical assessments of the past 5-10 years.
- Aspirations should be realistic desires and expectations for the next 5-10 years.

Scoring: 1-5 1=No Activity/Performance 3=Moderate Performance 5=Very Active and Effective

1. **HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM:** Your community has an active historic preservation program focused on identifying and preserving significant historic properties. Programs may have a historic preservation ordinance and landmark commission, or they may simply rely on a strong policy and active agenda to advance historic preservation goals.

Current Performance: _____

Future Aspirations: _____

Comments:

2. **GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS:** Your community regularly applies for and obtains grants for history-related projects—and successfully completes them.

Current Performance: _____

Future Aspirations: _____

Comments:

3. **PUBLIC EDUCATION:** Your community promotes its history through public education activities and offerings, including historical/cultural interpretive signage, walking tours, publications, websites, or other media presentations.

Current Performance: _____

Future Aspirations: _____

Comments:

4. **SCHOOL PROGRAMS:** A school in your community regularly participates in the annual National History Day competition, includes local history studies in its curriculum, or has an ongoing effort that allows students to participate in local history events and activities.

Current Performance: _____

Future Aspirations: _____

Comments:

5. **RECOGNITION PROGRAM:** Your community has an ongoing program for recognizing outstanding history-related achievements within the community, including, but not limited to, the following:

- historic preservation or archaeological projects
- school- or student-related history programs or projects
- heritage tourism efforts
- projects related to historical artifacts, records, photos, etc.
- long-term local businesses (50 years or older)
- history exhibits or other museum-related projects
- history publications or presentations (books, websites, lectures, etc.)
- genealogical projects or organizations
- efforts to preserve or document historic cemeteries

Current Performance: _____

Future Aspirations: _____

Comments:

6. **HISTORICAL RESEARCH LIBRARY OR ARCHIVE:** Your community has an active library or archive that processes, acquires, preserves, and makes available to the public historical documents, photographs, and other records related to the community's history.

Current Performance: _____

Future Aspirations: _____

Comments:

7. **HISTORICAL EXHIBITS:** Your community has artifact-based, historical museum exhibits or substantive historical displays that are publicly accessible on a regular basis.

Current Performance: _____

Future Aspirations: _____

Comments:

8. ORAL HISTORIES: Your community has an active oral history program that records, transcribes, and makes available to the public interviews with long-time residents and individuals involved in events or activities related to the history of the community.

Current Performance: _____

Future Aspirations: _____

Comments:

9. HERITAGE EVENTS: Your community has an ongoing, long-term celebration or event that is closely related to its history and has a variety of community-based activities associated with it. This event should reflect a unique, historical aspect of your community and not be just a widely celebrated holiday or routine event that other communities may have (e.g. 4th of July celebration, county fair, etc.).

Name of Event: _____

Year Established: _____ and Number of Years Celebrated: _____

Current Performance: _____

Future Aspirations: _____

Comments:

10. CEMETERY AND GENEALOGICAL RECORDS: Your community has a program to make publicly available cemetery and genealogical records, and/or it has an active program for preserving physical aspects of historic cemeteries.

Current Performance: _____

Future Aspirations: _____

Comments:

About You: ___ community resident/member ___ staff
 ___ elected official/community officer ___ other:

Name and Contact Info. (optional):

Additional Comments: